

A
M E T H O D
O F
BREAKING HORSES,
AND TEACHING
SOLDIERS TO RIDE.

Designed for the Use of the

A R M Y,
AND OTHERS,

BY

HENRY EARL OF PEMBROKE.

-----Equitem docuere sub armis
Insultare solo, et gressus glomerare superbos. VIRG.
Vis consilii expers mole sua ruit. HOR.

DUBLIN:

Printed for JOHN EXSHAW, in *Dame-street*.

MDCCLXI.

1608 / 6034.



TO THE
K I N G.

SIR,
WHEN the first regiment
of light dragoons was
raised, under the command of my
friend general GEORGE AUGUSTUS
ELIOTT, we had frequent occasi-
ons to lament together the wretch-
ed system of HORSEMANSHIP, that
at present prevails in the ARMY:
A system,

DEDICATION.

A system, disgraceful in itself, and productive in its consequences of the most fatal evils: For troops in their own nature most excellent and brave, have been frequently rendered inferior to less powerful ones, both in men and horses, for want of proper instructions and intelligence in this art. These serious considerations (for indeed they are very much so,) induced me to write down and make public the following Lessons, calculated for the use of the Cavalry: They are such as I have always practised

practised
in the
and el
cess.
thus p
MAJE
more
honou
often d
on Ho
his co
ecom
likely
myself
ned, an

DEDICATION.

practised myself ; and taught both
in the above-mentioned regiment
and elsewhere, with constant suc-
cess. Incited by these reasons, I
thus presume to lay them at Your
MAJESTY's feet ; and am the
more encouraged to it from the
honour Your MAJESTY has
often done me in talking to me up-
on HORSEMANSHIP ; as also from
his confidence, that if what I here
recommend, be deemed in any wise
likely to be useful, (as I flatter
myself it may, if candidly exami-
ned, and judiciously practised,) it
will

DEDICATION.

will not fail of receiving Your
MAJESTY's Royal Approbation
and Support. I am,

SIR,

YOUR MAJESTY's

MOST DUTIFUL SUBJECT
AND DEVOTED SERVANT

WHITEHALL,
Feb. 15, 1761.

PEMBROKE

THE
CONTENTS
OF THE
Following TREATISE.

CHAP. I.

The method of preparing horses to be mounted, with the circumstances relative to it. p. 1

CHAP. II.

The method of placing the men and rendering them firm on horseback, with some occasional instructions for them and the horses. - - - - - page 6

CHAP. III.

The method of suppling horses with men upon them, by the EPAULE en dedans, &c. with and without a longe, on circles and on strait lines. - - - 35

CHAP.

THE CONTENTS.

C H A P. IV.

*Of the head to the wall, and of the croup
to the wall. - - - - -* 51

C H A P. V.

*The method of teaching horses to stand fire,
noises, alarms, sights, &c.--of prevent-
ing their lying down in water—of
standing quiet to be shot off from--of
going over rough and bad ground—of
leaping hedges, gates, ditches, &c. stand-
ing and flying—of disregarding dead
horses—of swimming, &c.* 60

C H A P. VI.

*The method of reining back—and of mov-
ing forwards immediately after.—of
piafing—of pillars, &c.* 70

C H A P. VII.

*The method of curing restivenesses, vices,
defences, starting, &c.* 75

C H A P. VIII.

*Several remarks and hints on shoeing, feed-
ing, management of horses, &c. &c.* 86

A METHOD

A
M E T H O D
O F
BREAKING HORSES,
A N D
Teaching SOLDIERS to Ride, &c.

C H A P. I.

The method of preparing horses to be mounted, with the circumstances relative to it.

THOUGH all horses for the service are bought at an age, when they have already for the generality been backed, I would have them begun and prepared for the rider with the same care,
B gentle-

gentleness and caution, as if they had never been handled or backed, in order to prevent accidents, which might else arise from skittishness or other causes : and as it is proper, that they should be taught the figure of the ground they are to go upon, when they are at first mounted, (which probably may be by no very able horsemen, or perhaps by quite raw recruits,) they should be previously trotted in a *longe* on circles, without any one upon them.

The manner of doing this is as follows : Put an easy *cavesson* upon the horse's nose, and make him go forwards round you, standing quiet and holding the *longe* ; and let another man, if you find it necessary, follow him with a whip : All this must be done very gently, and
but

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 3

but a little at a time ; for more horses are spoilt by over-much work, than by any other treatment whatever ; and that by very contrary effects, for sometimes it drives them into vice, madness and despair, and often it stupifies them and totally dispirits them.

The first obedience required in an horse is going forwards : 'Till he performs this duty freely, never even think of making him rein back, which would inevitably render him restive : As soon as he goes forwards readily, stop and caress him. You must remember in this, and likewise in every other exercise, to use him to go equally well to the right and left ; and when he obeys, caress him and dismiss him immediately. If an horse, that is very young, takes fright and stands

B 2

still,

still, lead on another horse before him, which probably will induce him instantly to follow. Put a snaffle in his mouth; and when he goes freely, saddle him, girting him at first very loose. Let the cord, which you hold, be long and loose; but not so much so, as to endanger the horse's entangling his legs in it. It must be observed, that small circles, in the beginning, would constrain the horse too much, and put him upon defending himself. No bend must be required at first: never suffer him to gallop false; but whenever he attempt it, stop him without delay, and then set him off afresh. If he gallops of his own accord, and true, permit him to continue it; but if he does it not voluntarily, do not demand it of him at first. Should he fly and jump, shake the cord gently upon his
his

his nose without jerking it, and he will fall into his trot again. If he stands still, plunges or rears, let the man, who holds the whip, make a noise with it ; but never touch him, till it be absolutely necessary to make him go on. When you change hands, stop and caress him, and entice him by fair means to come up to you : For by presenting yourself, as some do, on a sudden before horses, and frightening them to the other side, you run a great risk of giving them a shyness. If he keeps his head too low, shake the *carveſſon* to make him raise it : And in whatever the horse does, whether he walks, trots, or gallops, let it be a constant rule, that the motion be determined and really such as is intended, without the least shuffling, pacing, or any other irregular gait.

C H A P II.

The method of placing the men and rendering them firm on horseback, with some occasional instructions for them and the horses.

TIS necessary that the greatest attention, and the same gentleness, that is used in teaching the horses, be observed likewise in teaching the men, especially at the beginning. Every method and art must be practised to create and preserve, both in man and horse, all possible feeling and sensibility contrary to the usage of most riding masters, who seem industriously to labour at abolishing these principles both in one and the other. The manner of placing

placing a man on horseback at first, is certainly of the utmost consequence, because so many things depend upon it.

The absurdity of the common method of putting a man, (who perhaps has never before been upon a horse; or if he has, in all probability, 'tis so much the worse,) on a rough trotting horse, to which he is obliged (supposing the horse is insensible enough to suffer it; and if he be not, the man must break, his neck,) to stick with all his might of arms and legs, is too obvious to need mentioning. This rough work, all at once, is plainly as pernicious at first, as it is excellent afterwards in proper time. No man is well on horseback, nor can in any wise be firm, unless he be master of the ballance of his body, quite uncon-

strained, with a full possession of himself, and at his ease ; none of which requisites can he enjoy, if his attention be taken up otherwise ; as it must wholly be in a raw, unsuppled, and unprepared lad, who is put at once upon a rough horse : In such a distressful state he is forced to keep himself on at any rate, by holding to the bridle, (at the expence of the sensibility both of his own hand, and the horse's mouth,) and by clinging with his legs, in danger of his life, and to the certain deprivation of a right feeling in the horse ; — a thing as needful to be kept inviolable, for the forming properly both of man and horse, as their very existence ; not to mention the horrid appearance of such a figure, rendered totally incapable of use and action.

The

ba
ho
tro
gal
wh
deg
he
eve
rou
only
right
shor
cien
by
are
imp
hab
day.
man

The first time a man is put on horse-back, it ought to be upon a very gentle horse. He never should be made to trot, till he is quite easy in the walk; nor gallop, till he is able to trot properly: when he is gradually arrived at such a degree of firmness in his seat, the more he trots, (which no man whatever should ever leave off,) and the more he rides rough horses, the better. This is not only the best method, (nay, the only right one,) but also the easiest and the shortest: by it, a man is soon made sufficiently an horseman for a soldier; but by the other detestable methods, that are commonly used, a man, instead of improving, contracts all kinds of bad habits, and rides worse and worse every day. In proceeding according to the manner I have proposed, a man becomes

firm and easy upon the horse, and, as it were, of a piece with him ; both his own and the horse's sensibility is preserved, and each in a situation fit to receive and practise all lessons effectually : for if the man and horse do not both work without difficulty and constraint, the more they are exercised, the worse horsemen and horses they grow ; every thing they do, is void of all good, of all grace, and of all use.

Various are the methods, that are used, of placing people on horseback ; there are but few who consult reason in it ; and every fool follows, and unhappily teaches his own silly system. Some insist, that no pressure at all, in a manner, should be upon the backside ; others recommend the seat almost upon
on

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 11

on the back-bone : out of these two contrary, and both equally ridiculous methods, an excellent one may be found by taking the medium. Before you let the man mount, teach him to know, and always to examine, if the curb be well placed, (I mean, when the horse has a bit in his mouth, which at first he should not ; but only a snaffle, till the rider is firm in his seat, and the horse also somewhat taught ;) and likewise if the nose-band be properly tight ; the throat-band loofish, and the mouth-piece neither too high, nor too low in the horse's mouth, but rightly put so as not to wrinkle the skin, nor to hang lax ; the girths drawn moderately, but not too strait ; and the crupper, and the breast-plate the same. When these things have been well looked to, let the man approach

proach the horse gently near the shoulder ; then taking the reins and an handful of the mane in his left hand, let him put his foot softly into the left stirrup, by pulling it towards him, lest he touch the horse with his toe, (which might frighten him) ; then let him stand up a moment on it with his body strait, but not stiff ; and after that, passing his right leg clear over the saddle without rubbing against any thing, let him seat himself calmly down. He must be cautious not to take the reins too short, for fear of making the horse rear, fall back or throw up his head ; but let him hold them of an equal and proper length, neither tight nor slack, and with the little finger placed betwixt them. 'Tis fit, that horses should be accustomed to stand still to be mounted, and not to stir
till

till the rider please ; and here let me observe, that all soldiers should be instructed to mount and dismount equally of both sides, which may be of very great use in times of hurry and confusion. Thus then place the man in his saddle, with his body rather back, and his head held up with ease, and free from stiffness ; seated neither forwards, nor very backwards, with the breast pushed out a little, and the waistband of the breeches also a little forwards ; the thighs and legs turned in without constraint, and the feet strait, neither turned in nor out : By this position, the natural weight of the thighs has a proper and sufficient pressure of it itself, and the legs are ready to act, when called upon : and herein care must be taken, that they hang down easy and
natu-

naturally, and be so placed, as not to be touching, wriggling about, and tickling the horse's sides, but always near, when wanted, as well as the heels.

The body must be carefully kept easy and firm, and without any rocking when in motion ; which is a bad habit very readily contracted, especially in galloping. It is necessary that the left elbow be gently leant against the body, a little forwards ; for was it not to be so rested, the hand could not be steady, but would consequently be always checking, and of course have pernicious effects on the horse's mouth : and the hand ought to be of equal height with the elbow ; because, if it were lower, it would constrain and confine the motion of the horse's shoulders, which must be free.

free.
hand i
horses
also m
low, l
hand
a low
must
left ;
forwa
lower
that it
by be
elbow

A
shoul
carrie
siness
ride,

free. I speak here of the position of the hand in general ; for as the mouths of horses are different, the place of the hand also must occasionally differ : a leaning, low, heavy fore-hand requires a high hand ; and a nose-poking star-gazer, a low one. The right hand and arm must be placed in symmetry with the left ; only let the right hand be a little forwarder or backwarder, higher or lower, as necessity may require, in order that it may be free : and here note, that by bending both arms a little at the elbow, you will prevent stiffness.

A soldier's right hand, no doubt, should be kept unemployed ; for as it carries the sword, that is a sufficient business for it : In learning therefore to ride, it is fit that the men should have a
whip

whip or switch in it, and hold it upwards, that they may thereby know how to carry their swords properly, keeping it downwards only, when they mount or dismount, that the horse may not be frightened.

There remains one farther observation, that ought not to be omitted, about the hand, that it must be kept clear of the body ; I mean, about two inches and half forwards from it, with the nails turned opposite to the belly, and the wrist a little rounded with ease ; a position not less graceful than ready for slackening, tightening, and moving the reins from one side to the other, as occasions may demand.

A firm

A firm and well balanced position of the body on horseback is of the utmost consequence ; as it affects the horse in every motion, and is the best of helps : But on the contrary the want of it is the greatest detriment to him, and an impediment in all his actions. When the men are well placed, the more rough trotting they have without stirrups, the better ; but with a strict care always, that their position be preserved very exactly. As for those unfeeling fellows, who continue sticking by their hands, in spite of all the teacher's attention to prevent it, nothing remains to be done but to make them drop the reins quite on a safe-going horse, and to keep their hands in the same position, as if they held them. In all cases whatever, but
more

more especially in this, great care must be taken to hinder their clinging with their legs : In short, no sticking by hands or legs is ever to be allowed of at any time. If the motion of the horse be too rough, slacken it, 'till the rider grows by degrees more firm : and when he is quite firm and easy on his horse in all kinds of motions, stirrups may be given him ; but he must never leave off trotting often and working without any.

You must observe, that the stirrups be neither short nor long ; but of such extent that when the rider, being well placed, puts his feet into them, (about one third of the length of each foot from the point of it,) the points may be between two and three inches higher than the heels : For longer stirrups would make it

it very
leg over
which a
saddle :
every re
The leng
right on
owing
himself
right an
down an
he is in
'till the
ankle-b
upon hi
ral wei
if he bo
above a
never

it very difficult for the rider to get his leg over the baggage, forage, cloak, &c. which are fastened on behind upon the saddle: and shorter would be bad in every respect, and answer no end at all. The length I mentioned above, is just the right one, and is to be taken in the following method: Make the rider place himself upon the saddle, strait, even, upright and well, with his legs hanging down and the stirrups likewise: and when he is in this position, take up the stirrup, till the bottom of it comes just under the ankle-bone. The rider must not bear upon his stirrups, but only let the natural weight of his legs rest on them: For if he bore upon them, he would be raised above and out of his saddle; which should never be, except in charging sword in hand,

hand, with the body inclined forwards at the very instant of attacking. Spurs may be given, as soon as the rider is grown familiar with stirrups, or even long before, if his legs are well placed.

Delicacy in the use of the hands, as well as in the use of the legs, may be given by the teacher to a certain degree; but 'tis nature alone that can bestow that great sensibility, without which neither one nor the other can be formed to any great perfection. An hand should be firm, but delicate: an horse's mouth should never be surpris'd by any sudden transition of it, either from slack to tight, or from tight to slack. Every thing in horsemanship must be effected by degrees, but at the same time with spirit and resolution.

That

BR

That h
properl
force, i
under t
also con
equal a
This pri
served u
of horse
hand m
y, upon
assist the
one, th
who has
se of.

The fi
ver, be
ins of
idle, v

That hand, which by giving and taking properly, gains its point with the least force, is the best ; and the horse's mouth, under this same hand's directions, will also consequently be the best, supposing equal advantages in both from nature. This principle of gentleness should be observed upon all occasions in every branch of horsemanship. Sometimes the right hand may be almost absolutely necessary, upon certain troublesome horses, to assist the left ; but the seldomer this is done, the better ; especially in a soldier, who has a sword to carry, and to make use of.

The snaffle must on all occasions whatever, be uppermost, that is to say, the reins of it must be above those of the bridle, whether the snaffle or the bit be

be used separately, or whether they be indeed both used together. When the rider taught separately knows enough, and the horse is sufficiently prepared and settled to begin any work towards suppling, one rein must begin to be shortened according to the side worked, (as is explained in its proper place ; A c but it must never be so much so, as to bad ride make the whole strength rest on that rein and balance alone ; for, not to mention that the of the work would be false and bad, one side who is of the horse's mouth would by that in two means be always dead ; whereas on the toward, contrary, it should always be kept fresh his own by its own play, and by the help of then his opposite rein's acting delicately in a over creation somewhat smaller degree of tension ; the badman, joint effect of which produces in a and correction horse's mouth the proper, gentle, and despair, in easy degree of *appui* or bearing. Colman suggests indeed

indeed, as well as men, at first must be taught the effect of the reins taken separately ; first of one, and then of the other, for fear of confounding them in the beginning with mixed effects at once.

A coward and a madman make alike bad riders, and are both alike found out and bamboozled by the superior sense of the creature they are mounted upon, who is equally spoilt by both, though in two very different manners. The coward, by suffering the animal to have his own way, not only confirms him in his own bad habits, but in a manner creates new ones in him : and the madman, by false and violent motions and corrections, drives the horse, through despair, into every bad habit, that rage can suggest.

It

It is very requisite in horsemanship, that the hand and legs should act in correspondence together in every thing; the latter always subservient and assistant to the former. Upon circles, in walking, trotting, or galloping, (I mean, where nothing more is intended,) the outward leg is the only one to be used, and that only for a moment at a time, in order to set of the horse true, or put him right if he be false; and as soon as that is done, it must be taken away again immediately: but if the horse be lazy, both legs must be used, and pressed to his sides at the same time together. It may be proper here to remark, that by the term outward is understood the side which is most remote from the center, and by inward is meant the side next to the center. In reining back, the rider should

should be careful not to use his legs, unless the horse backeth on his shoulders, in which case they must be both applied gently at the same time, and correspond with the hand; but if the horse offers to rear, they must be instantly removed away. The inward rein must be the tighter on circles, so that the horse may bend and look inwards; and the outward one crossed over a little towards it; and both held in the left hand, that the soldiers may not be accustomed to use their right, which, as has before been observed, must have other very necessary employments.

Let the man and horse begin on very slow motions, that they may have time to understand, reflect, and remember what is taught them: and in proportion

as the effects of the reins are better comprehended, and the manner of working becomes more familiar, the quickness of motion must be increased. Every rider must learn to feel without the help of the eye, when an horse is false, and remedy the fault accordingly ; this is an intelligence, which nothing but practice and application can give in the beginning on slow motions ; I say slow, because an horse may not only gallop false, but also trot and walk false. If an horse gallops false, that is to say, if going to the right, he leads with the left leg ; or if going to the left, he leads with the right ; or in case he is disunited, by which is meant, if he leads with the opposite leg behind to what he leads with before ; stop him immediately, and put him off again properly : the method of effecting

effecting this, is by approaching your outward leg and putting your hand outwards, still keeping the inward rein the shorter, and the horse's head inwards if possible ; and if he should still resist, bend and pull his head outwards also, but replace it again, bent properly inwards, the moment he goes off true. An horse is said to be disunited to the right, when going to the right, and consequently leading with the right leg before, he leads with the left behind ; and is said to be disunited to the left, when going to the left, and consequently leading with the left leg before, he leads with the right behind. Let it be farther noted, that an horse may at the same time be both false and disunited ; in correcting both which faults, the same method must be used.

He is both false and disunited to the right, when in going to the right he leads with the left leg before, and the right behind; notwithstanding that hinder leg be with propriety more forward under his belly, than the left, because the horse is working to the right: and he is false and disunited to the left, when in going to the left, he leads with the right leg before, and the left behind; notwithstanding, as above, that hinder leg be with propriety more forward under his belly than the right, because the horse is working to the left.

In teaching men a right seat on horseback, above all things let the utmost attention be given to prevent stiffness, and sticking by force in any manner upon any occasion: for stiffness is an enemy

enemy to every right work ; and sticking serves only to throw a man (when displaced) a great distance from his horse by the spring he must go off with : whereas by a proper equilibrating position of the body, and by the natural weight only of the thighs, he cannot but be in a manner immoveable.

As the men grow more firm and the horses more supple, 'tis proper to make the circles less, but not too much so, for fear of throwing the horses forwards upon their shoulders.

No bits should be used, 'till the riders are firm, and the horses bend well to right and left ; and then too always with the greatest care and gentleness : for that silly custom of using strong

bits is by no means adviseable, and indeed in all good schools they are laid aside, as they should be likewise in military riding. They serve to harden as much the hand of the rider, as the mouth of the horse; both which becoming every day more and more insensible together, nothing can be expected but a most unfeeling callousness both in one and the other. Some horses, when first the bit is put into their mouths, if great care be not taken, will put their heads very low. With such horses, raise your right hand with the *bridoon* in it, which you must saw gently from one side to the other, and play at the same time with the bit in the left hand, giving and taking, but not sawing it.

On circles, the rider must lean his body
in-

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 31

inwards ; and unless great attention be given to make him do it, he will be perpetually losing his seat outwards ; whereas 'tis scarce possible for him to be displaced inwards.

Instructions both to man and horse in riding are of the greatest importance and consequence ; as the success of actions in an high degree depends upon them. Squadrons are frequently broken and defeated through the ignorance of the riders or horses ; but more commonly of both together. Many and various are the disasters, that arise from the horses not being properly prepared and suppled, nor the men taught firm seats, independent of their hands and the mouths of their horses. Were the men rightly instructed how to keep the

mouths of their horses fresh and obedient, and thereby maintain a cadenced pace, (be it ever so fast, or ever so slow,) ranks would of course be always dressed, and unshaken, and consequently always powerful. The stoutest and by nature the best of cavalry are often broken, and thereby rendered inferior far to much weaker and less respectable bodies than themselves, for want of being properly informed in the above-mentioned, and such-like particulars. This is a matter worthy of a serious inspection, consideration and amendment, the neglect of which has upon many occasions been very fatal. 'Tis to be hoped, that some person of sufficient abilities and knowledge will contrive to introduce many alterations, that appear very necessary in the cavalry. I see, for instance, no reason, why
the

the men should not wear *cuirasses*, when it is evident, that many lives would be saved by it, especially in charging infantry ; but then the *cuirasses* must not be like the common ones at present, which seldom fit, are heavy and unweildy beyond measure, weighing down and fatiguing the wearer excessively. Again, to what purpose is it, that the men are loaded with such monstrous heavy boots and firelocks ? when certainly a lighter, yet full as strong, and much more serviceable boot might be contrived. And likewise a light carbine would suit them far better, if any fire-arm at all be thought necessary ; which, I confess, appears not so to me, as our dragoons are to all intents and purposes cavalry ; and should therefore be provided with a good sword, be well

instructed in the management of it, and wholly depend upon it. I cannot but say also, that an hat seems to me a silly and useles piece of dress in a soldier : it is perpetually falling off, and especially in action ; nor can it ever serve as a protection against blows, &c. and bad weather, which is a circumstance of great consequence : whereas a cap has no inconveniences at all attending it, may be made very ornamental and with a martial appearance, and in such a manner, as to be a good fence against blows, rain, snow, and stormy winds, and also convenient to sleep in.

C H A P. III.

The method of suppling horses with men upon them, by the EPAULE en dedans, &c. with and without a longe, on circles and on strait lines.

WHEN an horse is well prepared and settled in all his motions, ('till which attainment nothing more must be attempted,) and the rider firm, (which is also as absolutely necessary,) it will be proper then to proceed on towards a farther suppling and teaching of both. In regiments, especially those that are young, there are but very few, if any, tolerable horsemen, which makes the greatest exactness and gentleness absolutely necessary in the instructing of each :

each : and more particularly so in this case, as horse and man are both ignorant, and both must be alike taught together ; which is a difficulty, that does not exist in schools : for there a young rider is put upon a made, or at least a quiet horse ; nor do any, but able riders, ever mount a raw one.

In setting out upon this new work, begin by bringing the horse's head a little more inwards than before, pulling the inward rein gently to you by degrees. When this is done, try to gain a little on the shoulders, keeping the inward rein the shorter, as before, and the outward one crossed over towards the inward one. The intention of these operations is this ; the inward rein serves to bring in the head, and
procures

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 37

procures the bend ; whilst the outward one, that is crossed, tends to make that bend perpendicular and as it should be, that is to say, to reduce the nose and the forehead to be in a perpendicular line with each other : if the nose be drawn in towards the breast beyond the perpendicular, it would be improper and have bad effects. And in general all other bends, besides what I have above specified, are false. The outward rein, being crossed, serves also to prevent the outward shoulder from getting too forwards, and makes it approach the inward one, which facilitates the inward leg's crossing over the outward one ; which is the motion, that so admirably supples the shoulders. Care must be taken, that the inward leg go over the outward one, without knocking

knocking against or touching it : and observe too, that this inward leg's crossing over must be helped also by the inward rein, which you must cross towards and over the outward rein, every time the outward leg comes to the ground, in order to lift and help the inward leg over it : at any other time, but just when the outward leg comes to the ground, it would be pernicious to cross the inward rein, or to attempt to lift up the inward leg by it ; nay, it would be demanding an absolute impossibility, and lugging about the reins and horse to no purpose ; because in that case, a very great part of the horse's weight resting then upon that leg, would render such an attempt, not only fruitless, but also prejudicial to the sensibility of the mouth, and probably oblige him

him to
it would
of strai
with
produced
whatsoever
hand a
it, vain
they are
are doing
them.

When
accustomed
him, the
the same
bringing
of course
same way
bring back

him to defend himself : and moreover, it would put the horse under a necessity of straddling before, and also of leading with the wrong leg, without being productive of any suppling motion whatsoever : yet still, for want of head, hand and feeling, many continue to do it, vainly imagining all the while that they are dressing horses, whereas they are doing just the reverse and spoiling them.

When the horse is thus far familiarly accustomed to what you have required of him, then proceed to effect by degrees the same crossing in his hinder legs. By bringing in the fore-legs more, you will of course engage the hinder ones in the same work : if they resist, the rider must bring both reins more inwards ; and, if
neces-

necessary, put back also, and approach his inward leg to the horse ; and if the horse throws out his croup too far, the rider must bring both reins outwards, and if absolutely necessary, (but not else,) he must also make use of his outward leg, in order to replace the horse properly ; observing, that the croup should always be considerably behind the shoulders, which in all actions must go first ; and the moment that the horse obeys, the rider must put his hand and leg again into their usual position.

Nothing is more ungraceful in itself, and detrimental to a man's seat, or more destructive of the sensibility of an horse's sides, than a continual wriggling unsettledness in an horseman's legs, which prevents the horse from ever going a moment

B R

moment

'Tis im

man to

A soft

if necess

one is i

sequence

An h

without

and whe

the ride

and disp

the hand

being su

must also

suffer an

dismounte

and let

flower th

moment together true or determined. 'Tis impossible upon the whole for a man to be too firm, settled, and gentle. A soft motion may be always enforced, if necessary, with ease ; but an harsh one is irrecoverable, and its bad consequences very often almost irreparable.

An horse should never be turned, without first moving a step forwards ; and when it is doing, be attentive, that the rider does not lift up his elbow, and displace himself ; a motion only of the hand from one side to the other being sufficient for the purpose. It must also be a constant rule never to suffer an horse to be stopped, mounted or dismounted, but when he is well placed ; and let it be remembered, that the slower the motions are, when a man or
horse

horse is taught any thing, the better ; for, as I have suggested before, both the one and the other have time to reflect on the lesson, and comprehend it more perfectly ; but then let me add here, that the motion, though slow, must not be dull or with any hesitation.

At first, the figures worked upon must be great, and afterwards made less by degrees according to the improvement the man and horse make ; and the cadenced pace also, which they work upon, must be accordingly augmented. The changes from one side to the other must be in a bold determined trot, strait forwards.

In the beginning, 'tis expedient to make use of the *longe* on circles and
also

also on
rider an
when th
let them
lesson, r
horse, b
approach
and play
push him
Shaking
and also
and rath
make him
refuse to
use and
will som
in order
ing it to
but the p
and the

also on strait lines, to help both the rider and the horse ; but afterwards, when they are grown more intelligent, let them go alone. At the end of the lesson, rein back ; and then put the horse, by a little at a time, forwards, by approaching both legs gently to his sides, and playing with the hand : if he rears, push him out immediately into a full trot. Shaking the *cavesson* on the horse's nose, and also putting one's self before him and rather near to him, will generally make him back, though he otherwise refuse to do it : and moreover a slight use and approaching of the rider's legs, will sometimes be necessary in backing, in order to prevent the horse from doing it too much upon his shoulders ; but the pressure ought to be very small, and the legs taken quite away the moment

ment he puts himself enough upon his haunches. If the horse does not back upon a strait line properly, the rider must not be permitted to have recourse immediately to his leg, and so distort himself by it (which is generally practised with the common sort of riding masters;) but first try, if crossing over his hand and reins to which every side may be necessary, will not be alone sufficient; which most frequently it will; but if not then employ the leg.

After an horse is well prepared, and settled, and goes freely on in all his several paces, he ought to be in all his works kept, to a proper degree, upon his haunches, with his hinder legs well under him; whereby he will be always pleasant to himself and his rider,

will

BR

will be
execute
him, wi

The
of forcin
glaring a
to the ar
instead o
to stiffer
making a
nevolent,
man-hate
maxim a
as it is t
to corre
foresee an

With h
and high

will be light in hand, and ready to execute whatever may be demanded of him, with facility, vigour and quickness.

The common method, that is used, of forcing an horse sideways, is the most glaring absurdity, and utterly destructive to the animal in its consequences: for instead of suppling him, it obliges him to stiffen and defend himself, often making a creature, that is naturally benevolent, a restive, frightened and vicious man-hater for ever. In general, 'tis a maxim as constantly to be remembered as it is true, that it is more difficult to correct faults and bad habits, than to foresee and prevent them.

With horses, who have very long
and high fore-hands and who poke,
a running

a running snaffle is of excellent use ; with such, as bore and keep their heads low, a common one is preferable ; not but that any horse's head may be kept up also with a running one, by the rider's keeping his hands very high and forwards : but which ever is used upon horses, that carry their heads low and that bore, it must be sawed about from one side to the other.

As for working a horse in hand without a rider, I cannot but totally condemn and reject it : two people indeed in my life, and amongst the many I have observed, but only two did I ever see, who have succeeded in it ; the one, Sir *Sidney Meadows*, to a surprising degree ; and another gentleman abroad, Cavalier *Rossermini* at

Pisa.

Pisa.
ever
me o
it, w
same
ignora

Th
I wou
as are
to tea
the mo
better
fered
horses
going,
to be
horses
who ar
must go

Pisa. Every one else, that I have ever known attempt it, have convinced me of the badness and erroneusness of it, when in their hands ; and at the same time of their own consummate ignorance.

This lesson of the *epaule en dedans*, I would only have taught to such people as are likely to become useful in helping to teach men and to break horses ; and the more of such, that can be found, the better : none others should ever be suffered upon any occasion to let their horses look but to the way they are going, which is a very rare thing now to be seen in most regiments. But all horses whatever, as likewise all men who are designed for the teaching others, must go thoroughly and perfectly through
this

this excellent lesson, under the directions of intelligent instructors, and often practise it too afterwards, (which indeed they ought to do every other lesson that is given them;) and when that is done, 'tis fit they should proceed to, and be finished by the lessons of the head and tail to the wall.

It would scarce be possible, (neither is it at all necessary) to teach the many more difficult and refined parts of horsemanship, to the different kinds and dispositions, both of men and horses, which one meets with in a regiment; or to give the time and attention requisite for it, to such numbers. In many regiments, the riding-money, if at all appropriated to the intended use, is seldom judiciously so; and frequently,

I am

I am
the bu
breach
lows:
given
fit one
certain
posed o
properl
subject
gunsmi
to ever
would
masters
each, on
rider at
man sho
rest, and
regiment
to anothe
and it sh

I am afraid the colonel rids himself of the business, by giving a pair of leather breeches to two or three ignorant fellows: sometimes indeed the whole sum is given to one man, who is very rarely a fit one for the purpose. The money certainly, that is allowed, if rightly disposed of, is full sufficient to procure and properly pay deserving and intelligent subjects; and moreover a saddler and gunsmith, which are absolutely necessary to every troop. The best method would be to qualify as many quartermasters as possible for riders; and under each, one rough rider, and one lance-rider at least for every troop. One man should have more pay than the rest, and be an instructor to the whole regiment, going about from one quarter to another, and from troop to troop; and it should be part of his duty also to

D

give

give lessons to the officers, (as likewise to break their horses ;) who, I am sorry to say it, are, (most of them at least,) when on horseback, a disgrace, not only to themselves, but to the animals they ride on.

This lesson, as indeed almost all others, ought to be practised on all figures, on circles, strait lines, squares, &c. when on this last, (as also in every lesson and on all figures, where corners or angles are worked on,) care must be taken concerning the shoulders and croup, that, which ever of them is to enter the corner, it may go quite into it; and if both of them are to do it, that both may go in like manner perfectly in; and let that, which goes in the second of the two, follow exactly the road of the preceding one.

C H A P.

C H A P - IV.

*Of the head to the wall, and of the croup
to the wall.*

THIS lesson should be practised immediately after that of the *epaule en dedans*, in order to place the horse properly the way he goes, &c. the difference between the head to the wall, and the croup to the wall, consists in this : in the former, the fore-parts are most remote from the center, and go over most ground ; in the latter, the hinder parts are most remote from the center, and consequently go over most ground : in both, as likewise in all other lessons, the shoulder must go first. In riding-houses, the head to the wall

D 2

is

is the easier to be performed at first, the line being marked by the wall : however they ought both to be equally practised : and in general, 'tis to be remarked, that all lessons ought frequently to be varied, in order to prevent a routine.

The motion of the legs in the lesson we are speaking of, to the right is the same as that of the *epaule en dedans* to the left, and so vice versâ ; but the head is always bent and turned differently : in the *epaule en dedans*, the horse looks the contrary way, to that he goes ; in this he looks the way he is going.

In the beginning, 'tis adviseable to require but very little bend ; for too much at once and suddenly, would
astonish

astonish the horse and make him defend himself : but it is to be augmented by degrees. If the horse absolutely refuses to pay obedience, it is a sign, that either he or his rider has not been sufficiently prepared by previous lessons. The case may so happen, that weakness or a hurt in some particular part of the body, and sometimes too indeed temper, (though seldom, in the horse I mean,) may be the cause of the horse's defending himself : 'tis the rider's business to distinguish from whence the obstacle arises ; and if he finds it to be from the first-mentioned cause, the previous lessons must be resumed again for some time ; but in the latter case, when all fair means, that can be tried, have failed, proper corrections with coolness and judgment must be used.

In practising this lesson to the right, bend the horse to the right with the right rein; helping the left leg over the right (at the time when the right is just come to the ground,) with the left rein crossed towards the right, and keeping the right shoulder back with the right rein towards your body, in order to facilitate the left leg's crossing over the right; and so likewise vice versâ to the left, each rein helping the other by their properly-mixed effects. In working to the right, the rider's left leg helps the hinder parts on to the right, and his right leg stops them, if they get too much forwards; and so vice versâ to the left; but neither ought to be used, 'till the hand, being employed, (as has been before explained,) in a proper manner, has failed; or finds,

finds, that a greater force is necessary to bring what is required, about than it can effect alone ; for the legs should not only be corresponding with, but also subservient to the hand ; and all unnecessary aids, as well as all force, ought always to be avoided, as much possible.

In the execution of all lessons, the equillibre of the rider's body proves of great use, ease and help to the horse : it ought always to go with and accompany every motion of the animal ; when to the right, to the right ; and when to the left, to the left ; for if it does not, it is a very great hindrance to the horse's going.

This lesson is perpetually of service ;

D 4

for

for example in all openings and closings of files : and though it be chiefly employed on strait lines, nevertheless it must be practised, advancing, retreating, turning, &c. as it may be of essential use almost in all cases whatever : it must be practised too in all paces, very fast as well as very slow, but of course gently at first ; and changes also from one hand to the other must frequently be made. 'Tis natural to imagine, that some horses, as well as some men, will be found more or less intelligent, active, supple, and nimble, than others ; and accordingly more or less is to be demanded and expected from them. Take notice, that this and all other lessons are to be performed with or without a *longe* as may be found needful.

Upon

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 57

Upon all horses in every lesson and action whatsoever, it must be observed, that there is no horse but has his own natural and peculiar *appui* or degree of bearing, and also a sensibility of mouth, as likewise a rate of his own, which it is absolutely necessary for the rider to discover and make himself acquainted with. The horse will inform him, when he has got his proper bearing in the mouth, by playing pleasantly and steadily with his bit, and by the spray about the chaps. The lighter this *appui* can be made, the better; provided that the rider's hand corresponds with it; if it does not, the more the horse is properly prepared, so much the worse. Instances of this may be seen every day in some gentlemen, who are absurd enough to try to get their

horses bitted, as they call it, (which now and then, though very rarely, they get done to some degree,) without being suitably prepared themselves for riding, them: the consequence of which is, that they ride in danger of breaking their necks; 'till at length after much hauling about, and by the joint insensibility and ignorance of themselves and their grooms, the poor animals gradually become mere senseless, unfeeling posts; and thereby grow, what they call, settled.

Whatever pace or degree of quickness you work at, (be it ever so fast, or ever so slow,) fail not to remember, that it must be cadenced; time being as necessary for a horseman as for a musician.

This

This lesson of the head and of the tail to the wall, must be taught every foldier whatsoever ; for scarce any manœuvre can be well performed without it. In closing and opening of files, it is almost every moment wanted ; though many of the present regimental-teachers, being full of ignorance, and consequently self-sufficiency, never make use of it, or even know it, or seem desirous of being informed ; but proceed in this, and all other parts of horsemanship, (which they as vainly endeavour themselves to put in execution, as to instruct others,) on principles and methods altogether false, useless and pernicious.

C H A P. V.

The method of teaching horses to stand fire, noises, alarms, sights, &c.--of preventing their lying down in water—of standing quiet to be shot off from--of going over rough and bad ground—of leaping hedges, gates, ditches, &c. standing and flying—of disregarding dead horses—of swimming, &c.

IN order to make horses stand fire, the sound of drums and all kinds of different noises, you must use them to it by degrees in the stable at feeding-time; and instead of being frightened at it, they will soon come to like it, as a signal for eating. The method of curing
starting

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 61

starting is treated of in the chapter upon restivenesses, vices, defences, &c.

With regard to such horses, as are afraid of burning objects, begin by keeping them still in a place at a certain distance from some lighted straw: caress the horse, and in proportion as his fright diminishes, approach gradually the burning-straw very gently, and increase the size of it. By this means he will very quickly be brought to be so familiar with it, as to walk undaunted even through it. The same method and gentleness must be observed also, in regard to glittering arms, colours, standards, &c.

As to horses that are apt to lie down in the water, if animating them, and
attacking

attacking them vigorously should fail of the desired effect, (which seldom is the case,) then break a straw bottle full of water upon their heads, and let the water run into their ears, which is a thing they apprehend very much.

All troop-horses ought to be very quiet and still to be shot off from, and be taught to stop the moment you present; and not to move after firing, 'till the rider demands it; this especially ought to be observed in the light-troops; in short, the horses must be taught to be so cool and undisturbed at it, as to suffer the rider to be as free upon him, as if he was on foot. Patience, coolness and temper are the only things requisite for accomplishing this end. Begin by walking the horse gently, then stopping, and

and
time
degr
goin
does
stop

T
a pi
his
of t
when
him,
on c
when
to fla
in a
conti
what
uneas

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 63

and keeping him immoveable for some time, so as to accustom him, by degrees not to have the least idea of going forwards without orders: if he does, then back him; and when you stop him, leave the reins quite loose.

To use an horse to fire-arms, first put a pistol or carabine in the manger with his feed; then use him to the sound of the lock and the pan; after which, when you are upon him, shew it to him, presenting it forwards, sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other; when he is reconciled to that, proceed to flash in the pan; after which, put in a small charge into the piece, and so continue augmenting it by degrees to what is commonly used: if he seems uneasy, walk him forwards a few steps slowly;

slowly ; and then stop, back and caress him. Horses are often also disquieted and unsteady at the clash, and drawing, and returning of swords, all which they must be familiarized to by little and little, by frequency and gentleness.

In going over rough and bad ground, the men must not forget to keep their hands high, and their bodies back.

It is very expedient for all cavalry in general, but particularly for the light cavalry, that their horses should be very ready and expert in leaping over ditches, hedges, gates, &c. The leaps, of whatever sort they are, which the horses are brought to in the beginning, ought to be very small ones ; and in the performance of this exercise, the riders must keep

keep their bodies back, and raise their hands a little in order to help the fore-parts of the horse up ; and let them be sure to mind to preserve their equillibre. 'Tis best to begin at a low bar covered with furze, which pricking the horse's legs, if he does not raise himself sufficiently, prevents their contracting a sluggish and dangerous habit of touching, as they go over, which any thing yielding and not pricking, would give them a custom of doing. Let the ditches you first bring horses to, be narrow ; and in this, as in every other progression, let the increase be made by degrees. Accustom them to come up to every thing, and stand coolly at it for some time ; and also to raise themselves up in order to measure the distance. When they leap well standing, then use
them

them to walk gently up to the leap, and to go over it without first stopping at it ; and after that is familiar to them, do it in a gentle trot, and so by degrees faster and faster, 'till at length it is as familiar for them to leap flying on a full gallop, as any other way : all which is to be acquired with great facility by calm and soft means without any hurry.

As horses are naturally apt to be frightened at dead horses, numbers of which are every moment met with on service, it is adviseable to accustom them to walk over, and leap over carcasses of dead horses ; and as by some innate sensation they are particularly terrified at this sight, the greater gentleness ought consequently to be used in breaking them of it.

Horses

H
which
vice :
are
be fr
small
guide
partic
must
and
shape

Th
ject t
all th
they
expe
activi
yet 't
shoul

Horses should also be taught to swim, which often may be necessary upon service: and if the men and horses both are not accustomed to it, both may be frequently liable to perish. A very small portion of strength is sufficient to guide an horse, any where indeed, but particularly in the water, where they must be permitted to have their heads, and be no ways constrained in any shape.

The heavy cavalry may probably object to having their large horses taught all these several exercises: but though they are not, nor can indeed be expected to perform all, with the same activity and velocity, as light troops do, yet 'tis absolutely necessary, that they should be taught them all: for 'tis a shame-

shameful consideration, that every little obstacle should in so many cases, as it does, prevent so useful and powerful a body from acting.

As I am very far from having any respect for a coachman's flapt hat, any more than for a groom's empty black cap, like many of my countrymen; I must own also that I am not possessed with the English rage of cutting off all extremities from horses: I venture to declare, I should be well pleased, if the tails of our horses, at least a switch, or nag tail, (but better, if the whole,) were left on. 'Tis hardly credible, what a difference, especially at certain times of the year, this single alteration would make in our cavalry: which, though naturally superior in
every

every thing to all other cavalry I have ever seen, are however long before the end of the campaign, for want of that natural defence against flies, inferior to all ; constantly fretting and sweating at picket, tormented and stung off their meat and stomachs, miserable and helpless ; whilst the foreign cavalry brush off the vermin, are cool and at ease, and mend daily instead of perishing, as ours do, almost visible to the eye of the beholder. The horses indeed of the foreign cavalry are always in better order than ours are, because their men at all times are more careful, and give more attention to them.

C H A P.

C H A P. VI.

The method of reining back—and of moving forwards immediately after.—of piafing—of pillars, &c.

SOMETHING having already been said in the chapter of suppling, &c. upon the subject of reining back, there will not be occasion to dwell much upon it here, as the reader may have recourse if he please, to that chapter. Be mindful never to finish your work by reining back with horses, that have any disposition towards retaining themselves; but always move them forwards and upon the haunches after it, before you dismount. This lesson of reining back, and piafing, is excellent to conclude with, and
puts

puts an horse well and properly on the haunches : It may be performed, according as horses are more or less suppled, and advanced, either going forwards, backing, or abiding on the same place : In the soldierly stile, if 'tis done well advancing, or at most, on the same spot, it is full sufficient : For to piafe in backing, is rather too much to be expected in the hurry, which cannot but attend such numbers both of men and horses, as are obliged to be taught together in regiments. This lesson must never be attempted at all, 'till horses are very well suppled, and somewhat accustomed to be put together ; otherwise it will have very bad consequences, and create restiveness ; and infallibly so, if not practised with the utmost exactness and delicacy ; and principally with horses,

ses, that have the least tendency to retain, or to defend themselves. If they refuse to back, and stand motionless, the rider's legs must be approached with the greatest gentleness to the horse's sides ; at the same time that the hand is acting on the reins to sollicit the horse's backing. This seldom fails of procuring the desired effect, by being the means of raising one of the horse's fore legs, which being in the air has no weight upon it, and is consequently very easily brought backwards by a small degree of tension in the reins. When this exercise is well performed, it is very noble, and useful, and has a pleasing air ; being withal an excellent one to begin teaching scholars with. In regiments, at their first being raised, when all horses are bought in young and raw together, there can of course

course be no horses ready prepared in it for this purpose ; but a little time remedies this inconvenience.

The lesson, we are speaking of, is particularly serviceable in the pillars, for placing scholars well at their first setting out. Very few regimental riding-houses indeed have pillars, and I must say, that it is fortunate they have not ; for, though when properly made use of with skill, they are one of the greatest and best discoveries in cavalry ; they must be allowed to be very dangerous and pernicious, when they are not under the direction of a very knowing person. Upon the whole, I must declare, that however highly I approve of pillars, I would on no account admit of any, unless constantly under the eye and atten-

E

tion

E

tion

tion of a very intelligent teacher ; which is a thing so difficult to be found in regiments, that I think pillars are better banished from amongst them, and therefore shall say no more of what I esteem nevertheless so much. As for the single pillar, it is a very pernicious and ridiculous thing ; and being as I hope and believe, universally laid aside, I think it not worth making further mention of here.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

The method of curing restivenesses, vices, defences, starting, &c.

BEFORE any mention is made of the different kinds of restivenesses, vices, and defences, &c. it may not be amiss to premise, that an horse's being good or ill-natured, greatly depends on the temper of the person, that is put about him, especially at first ; and consequently one cannot be too careful and watchful in this point.

Whenever an horse makes resistance, one ought, before a remedy or correction is thought of, to examine very minutely all the tackle about him, if any thing hurts or tickles him, whether

he has any natural or acquired weakness, or in short any the least impediment in any particular part. For want of this precaution, and previous inspection, many fatal, and often irrecoverable disasters happen : the poor animal is frequently accused falsely of being restive and vicious ; is used ill without reason, and being forced into despair, is, in a manner, obliged to act accordingly, be his temper and inclination ever so well disposed. An horse that is vicious and withal so weak, that there is no probability of strengthening him, is a most deplorable beast, and not worth any one's care or undertaking : 'tis very seldom, (I was near saying, never) the case, that an horse is really, and by nature vicious ; but if such be found, he will despise all caresses, and then chastisements become necessary.

Cor-

Correction, according as you use it, throws an horse into more or less violent action, which, if he be weak, he cannot resist : but a vicious strong horse is very different, being able both to receive and consequently to profit by all lessons ; and is, in every respect, far preferable to the best-natured weak one upon earth. Patience and science are never-failing means to bring about a cure in such an horse : in whatsoever manner he defends himself, bring him frequently with gentleness, (not however without having given him proper chastisement, if found necessary,) back to the lesson he seems most averse to. Horses are by degrees made obedient, through the hope of recompence as well as the fear of punishment : how to mix these two motives *à propos* together, is

a very difficult matter, requiring much thought and much practice also ; and not only a good head, but a good heart likewise. By a dextrous use of the incitements abovementioned, you will gradually bring the horse to temper and obedience ; whereas, mere force and want of skill and of coolness, would only tend to confirm him in bad tricks. If he be impatient or choleric, never strike him, unless he absolutely refuses to go forwards at all ; which you must resolutely oblige him to do, and which will be of itself a correction, by preventing his having time to meditate, and put in execution any defence by retaining himself. Resistance in horses, you must consider, is sometimes a mark of strength and vigour, and proceeds from spirits, as well as sometimes from vice and weakness.

weakness. Weakness indeed frequently drives horses into viciousness, when any thing, wherein strength is necessary, is demanded from them ; nay, it inevitably must : great care therefore should always be taken to distinguish from which of these two causes, that are evidently so different, the defence arises, before any remedy or punishment be thought of. It may sometimes be a bad sign, when horses do not at all defend themselves, and proceed from a lazy sluggishness, and want of spirit and feeling. Whenever one is so fortunate as to meet with an horse of just the right, desirable spirit, activity, delicacy, sensibility, and good-nature, he cannot be cherished too much ; for such an one is a rare and inestimable jewel, and if properly treated, will, in a manner,

do every thing of himself. Let me here suggest, that horses are oftener spoilt by having too much done to them, and by attempts to dress them in too great an hurry, than by any other management.

If after an horse has been well supplied, and no impediments, either natural or acquired ones, exist, if he still persists to defend himself, chastisements then become necessary: but whenever this is the case they must not be frequent, but always firm, though always as little violent, as possible: for they are both dangerous and very prejudicial, when frequently or slightly played with; and still more so, when used too violently.

'Tis

'Tis impossible in general to be too circumspect in lessons of all kinds, in aids, chastisements or caresses ; for, as the D. of Newcastle observes, if any man was in the form of an horse, he could not invent with more art than some horses do, schemes to oppose himself to what you demand of him. Many will imperceptibly gain a little every day on their rider : some in short, have quicker parts, and more cunning, than others. It is the rider's business in general to let them know that he loves them, and desires to be loved by them ; but at the same time, that he does not fear them, and will be master.

Plunging is a very common defence among restive and vicious horses : if they do it in the same place, or backing,

E 5

they

they must be, by the rider's legs and spurs firmly applied, obliged to go forwards, and their heads kept up high. But if they do it flying forwards, keep them back, and ride them gently and very slow for a good while together. Of all bad tempers in horses, that, which is occasioned by harsh treatment and ignorant riders, which are very common, is the worst.

Rearing is a bad vice, and, in weak horses especially a very dangerous one. Whilst the horse is up, the rider must yield his hand, and at the time he is coming down again, he must vigorously determine him forwards: if this be done at any other time, but whilst the horse is coming down, it may add a spring perhaps to his rearing, and
make

BREAKING HORSES, &c. 83

make him fall backwards. With a good hand on them, horses seldom persist in this vice ; for they are themselves naturally much afraid of falling backwards. If this method, which I have mentioned fails, (which it scarcely ever will,) you must make the horse kick up behind by getting somebody on foot, if necessary, to strike him behind with a whip ; or, if that will not effect it, by pricking him with a goad.

Starting often proceeds from a defect in the sight ; which therefore must be carefully looked into. Whatever the horse is afraid of, bring him up to it gently ; and if you caress him every step he advances, he will go quite up to it by degrees, and soon grow familiar with all sorts of objects. Nothing,

ning, but great gentleness can correct this fault : for if you inflict punishment, the dread of the chastisement becomes prevalent, and causes more starting, than the fear of the object. If you let him go by the object, without bringing him up to it, you increase the fault and encourage him in his fear : the consequence of which is, he takes his rider perhaps quite the contrary way from what he was going, becomes his master, and puts himself and the person upon him, every moment in great danger. I have so often heard people absurd enough to maintain, some, that blows are necessary to cure this evil ; and others, that horses should be suffered to have their own way in it ; insomuch, that I could not help saying a few words upon this subject, (though it speaks
for

for itself,) to convince those, who, as an ingenious friend Mr. *Bourgelat* says, *argumentent de ces systemes deplorables.*

With such horses, as are to a very great degree fearful of any objects, make a quiet horse, by going before them, gradually entice them to come nearer and nearer the thing they are afraid of. If the horse, thus alarmed, be undisciplined and head-strong, he will probably run away with his rider ; and if so, his head must be kept up high, and the snaffle sawed backwards and forwards from right to left, taking up and yielding the reins of it, as also the reins of the bit : but this latter must not be sawed backwards and forwards, like the snaffle. No man ever yet did, or ever will stop an horse, or gain any one point on him, by pulling a dead weight against him.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

Several remarks and hints on shoeing, feeding, management of horses, &c. &c.

I Do not by any means intend to enter here largely on a system of shoeing. As feet differ, so should shoes accordingly. As to farriers there are none worthy of the name, and the education that is given them, seems, as if it was intended to make it impossible for any ever to know any thing of their trade, or even to get a little common sense : As this is the case, we must lay down only such rules, as are plain, general and invariable, and the strictest discipline must be enforced to make them all observed and followed most religiously.

ly. I do not however despair of seeing some intelligent farriers properly formed; and when they are, the number of them in regiments should be increased: But 'till skilful ones can be instructed, it would be much better to have none at all. One man cannot properly shoe more than forty horses; and at present we have only one to a troop of fifty-five, besides bat-horses, and all those that belong to officers, sutlers, carriages, servants, &c. There should also be one forge-cart at least appropriated to each squadron, and a third for the latter-mentioned purposes: But they must not be like our present ones, which are made so heavy and with such low wheels, that they employ a great number of horses, ruin most of them, and after all, seldom get up in right time, even in good roads,
and

and never in bad ones. And I may say, that 'tis lucky they do not; for upon experience one finds fewer horses lame, during their absence, than when they are present. They should be built upon two wheels only, and those very high: The cart must be covered, and have partitions in it for the forge, bellows, tools, charcoal, &c. All these things may be taken out of the cart, and worked on the ground. This sort of forge-cart never sticks, and is always up with the regiments on any marches: It requires but few horses, and spoils none. I have one for my own use, made by some belonging to the Hanoverian train, which is drawn easily by two horses. For regiments indeed, the carts must be somewhat larger, and more substantial, and would need three horses. I doubt not,
but

but an English workman would improve upon them, as to strength and lightness, as well as convenience; tho' the one I have, is very well constructed, and fully answers every necessary purpose.

Phylick and a butteris in well-informed hands would not be fatal; but in the manner we are now provided with farriers, they must be quite banished. Whoever at present lets his farrier or his groom, in consideration of his having swept dung out of the stables for a greater or less number of years, ever even mention any thing more than water-gruel, a clyster, or a little bleeding, and that too very seldom; or pretend to talk of the nature of feet, of the seat of lamenesses, sicknesses, or their cures, may be certain to find

find himself very shortly quite on foot, and fondly arms an absurd and inveterate enemy against his own interest. It is incredible what villains most of our English stable-people are, and what daring attempts they will make to gain an ascendant over their masters, in order to have their own foolish ways. In shoeing, for example, I have more than once known it to be real fact, that, for the sake of establishing their own ridiculous and pernicious system, when their masters have differed from it, they have, on purpose, lamed horses, and imputed the fault to the shoes, after having in vain tried, by every sort of invention and lies, to discredit the use of them. How can the-method of such people be commendable, whose arguments, as well as practice, are void of common sense?

If

If y
they
heav
proc
the
itself
such
whi
nails
en
one
with
ser
horf
abfu
gree
ill-f
tota
they
and

If your horse's foot be bad and brittle, they advise you to cover it with a very heavy shoe; the consequence of which proceeding is evident: For how should the foot, which before could scarce carry itself, be able afterwards to carry withal such a monstrous additional weight, which is stuck on too with innumerable nails, the holes of which tear and weaken the hoof? If the foot is cut or hurt, one doctor says, load it by way of cover, with all you can: His conceited opposer as wisely counsels you, to let the horse walk bare upon the sore. The only absurdity all these simpletons seem to agree in, is to shoe with excessive heavy ill-shaped shoes and very many nails, to the total destruction of the foot. The cramps they annex, tend to destroy the bullet, and the cat-walnut-shell shaped shoes prevent

prevent the horse's walking upon the firm basis, which God has given him for that end. They also open and cut away the inside of the animal's foot with their detestable butteris, and afterwards put on very long shoes, whereby the foot is hindered from having any pressure at all upon the heels, which pressure otherwise might still perchance, notwithstanding their dreadful cutting, keep the heels properly open, and the foot in good order. The frog should never be cut out ; but as it will sometimes become ragged, it must be cleaned every now and then, and the ragged pieces cut off with a knife. In one kind of foot indeed a considerable cutting away must be allowed of, but not of the frog ; I mean that very high feet must be cut down to a proper height ; because if they were

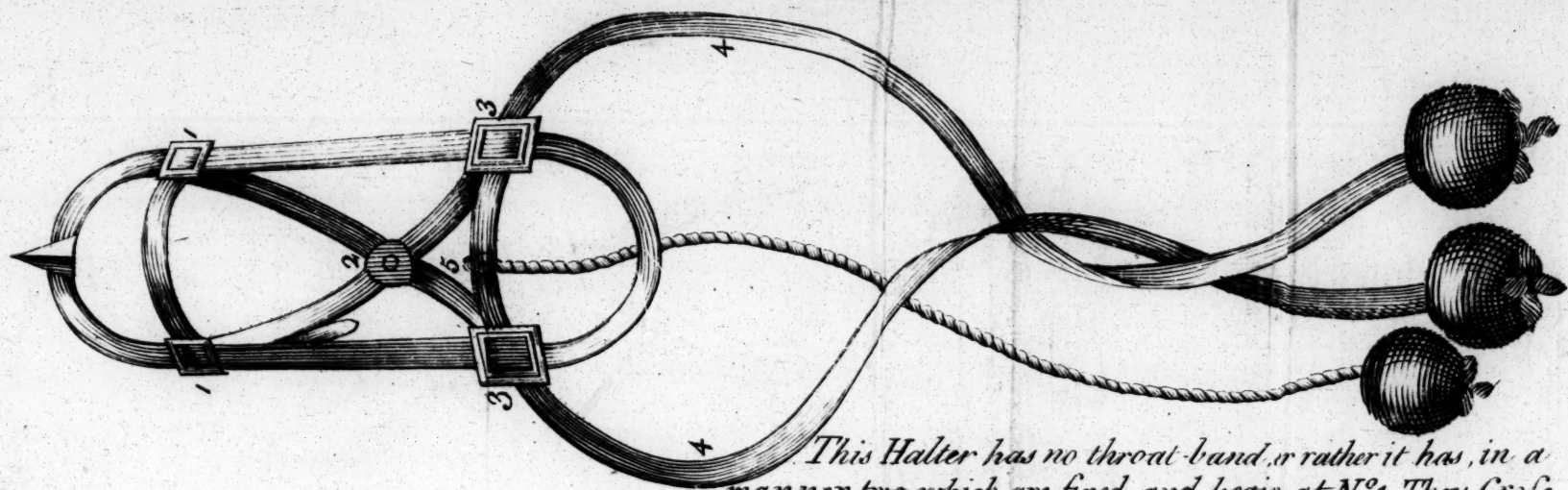
were
still b
to ha
great
ged,
go la

Th
whole
and
be ve
this o
too l
that
not t
out
part
horse
any
drau

were not, the frog tho' not cut, would still be so far above the ground, as not to have any bearing on it, whereby the great tendon must inevitably be damaged, and consequently the horse would go lame.

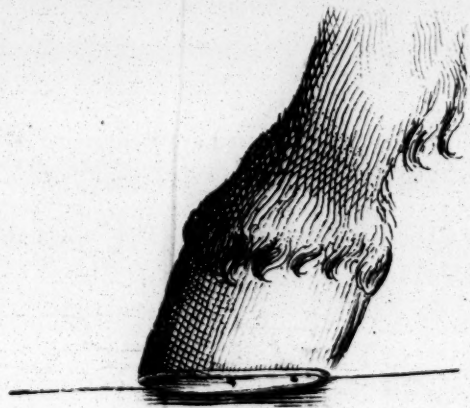
The weight of shoes must greatly, wholly indeed, depend on the quality and hardness of the iron. If the iron be very good, it will not bend ; and in this case, the shoes cannot possibly be too light : care however must be taken, that they be made of a thickness so as not to bend ; for, bending would tear out the nails, and ruin the hoof. That part of the shoe, which is next the horse's heel, must be narrower, than any where else, (as is seen in the draught,) that stones may be thereby prevented

prevented from getting under it, and sticking there ; which otherwise would be the case ; because the iron, when it advances inwardly beyond the bearing of the foot, makes a cavity, wherein stones being lodged would remain ; and, by pressing against the foot, lame the horse. The part of the shoe, which the horse walks upon, should be quite flat and the inside of it likewise ; and only just room enough should be left next the foot, to put in a picker, (which ought to be used every time the horse comes into the stable, and often on marches,) and also to prevent the shoe's pressing upon the sole. Three, or, at most, four nails of a side, hold better than a greater number, and keep the hoof in a far better state. The toe of the horse must be cut square and short, nor any nails driven there ; this
method



5. A single cord or leather, if the Horse is only fastened with one, which will be as effectual as two: in this case, the two others, N^o 4 become unnecessary.

This Halter has no throat-band, or rather it has, in a manner, two, which are fixed, and begin at N^o 1. They Cross at 2; are fixed again and end at 3. The nose-band is also Sewed on at 3. The place 2. where the throat-bands meet, is a flat button, which is placed, when the Halter is well put on, just under the Ganaches, (the channel between the two Jaw-bones.) The chains, ropes, or leathers, N^o 4, which tie the horse in the Stable, are also fixed at 3.



method serves to throw nourishment to the heels, and strengthens them ; for on them the horse should in some measure walk, and the shoe be made of a proper length accordingly : by this means, narrow heels are prevented, and a thousand other good effects produced. That my directions for shoeing a proper length may be the more clear and intelligible, I have annexed a draught of a foot shoed of a proper length standing on a plain surface, and with it a draught of the right kind of shoe.

In wet, spungy, and soft ground, where the foot sinks in, the pressure upon the heels is of course greater, than on hard ground ; and so indeed it should be upon all accounts. The hinder feet must be treated in the same manner
as

as the fore-ones ; and the shoes the same : except in hilly and slippery countries, they may not improperly be turned up a little behind : but doing this to the fore-shoes is, I am convinced, of no service, and is certain ruin to the fore-legs, especially to the bullets. In descending hills, cramps are apt to throw horses down, by stopping the fore-legs, when the hinder ones are rapidly pressed ; which unavoidably must be the case, and consequently cannot but push the horse upon his nose. Ice nails are, preferable to any thing to prevent slipping ; but they must be so made, as to be, when driven in, a bare half inch above the shoe, and also have four sides ending at the top in a point. They are of great service to prevent slipping on all kinds of places, and by means of them

them an horse is not put out of his proper basis. The utmost severity ought to be inflicted upon all those who clap shoes on hot : This unpardonable laziness of farriers in making thus feet fit shoes, instead of shoes fitting feet, dries up the hoofs, and utterly destroys them. The shoes in England at present, that are contrived with the most sense, are what they call plates for the race-horses at Newmarket : I do not say, that they are perfect, but they are nearer the truth, than any others I know ; nor are they substantial enough for common use, tho' sufficiently so for the turf. I do not by any means recommend the practices at Newmarket in every thing ; but in this particular circumstance, certainly it has got the start of other people.

F

'Tis

'Tis strange, that there should be so many ridiculous and absurd methods of shoeing ; when 'tis so manifest, that a small share of common sense with a moment's reflexion upon an horse's foot, cannot but suggest the proper one. Frequent removals of shoes are detrimental and tear the foot, but sometimes they are very necessary: this is an inconvenience, which half-shoes are liable to, (though excellent in several other respects ;) for the end of the shoe, being very short, is apt to get foot into the foot, and consequently then must be moved.

The common practice of stuffing feet, that are heated, with dung, I can in no wise approve of ; for the dung contains a rotting quality in it : clay and
hog's

hog's lard, well mixed together, is much better for the purpose.

The methods of treating and keeping horses in other respects, are as various, and for the generality as inconsistent with reason, as those of shoeing are : but a grain of understanding with a little consideration would (in most common cases at least,) direct people right in both. One pampers his cattle, with a view of strengthening them ; and afterwards, by way of correction, he pours down drugs into them without thought or measure. Another lets no air at all into his stable ; from whence his horses inevitably catch cold, when they stir out of it ; and are rotted, if they abide in it, by the bad corrupted air. A third, equally wise, leaves his stable

open and his cattle exposed to the wind and weather at all times, whether his horses or the weather be hot or cold; and frequently too even in wind-draughts, whilst they are in a sweat. All these different notions and practices are alike attended with edstruction to horses; as also are the many extravagances, that prevail in the same contradictory extremes, with regard to coverings. But in answer to all these foolish systems, reason plainly suggests to us, that proper wholesome food, a well-tempered circulation of sweet air, moderate and constant exercise, with due care, and suitable cloathing, as times and occasions may require, will never fail to preserve horses sound and in health.

After

After working, and at night of course, as also in lamenesses, and sicknesses, 'tis good for horses to stand on litter; it promotes staling, &c. at other times I do not advise it; for the constant use of it makes the feet tender.

It is of the greatest consequence for horses to be kept clean, regularly fed and as regularly exercised: but whoever chuses to ride in the way of ease and pleasure, without any fatigue on horse-back; or in short, likes not to carry his horse instead of the horse's carrying him, must not suffer his horse to be exercised by a groom, standing up on his stirrups holding himself on by means of the reins, and thereby leaning his whole dead weight on the horse's mouth, to

the entire destruction of whatever is good, safe or pleasant about the animal.

A great quantity of hay, especially that which is taken from water-meadows or any low and swampy ground, being of a foggy nature, is not good for horses : it may serve indeed for cart-horses, and for troop-horses, who are meant for no other use, but to roll on slowly with a fat fellow, full of beer, upon them ; who, to the shame of the service, with the badge of soldiership on his back, is a more stupid and lazy animal, than what he is mounted upon, which to its misfortune is rendered so by the sluggishness of his rider. But troops, who are really destined for service, and to be useful, must be active: the very
training

training them to what is absolutely necessary, requires good wind ; more or less, according to the different intents and purposes they may be designed for.

Upon service, the allowance of all kinds of forage, whenever there is a possibility of supplying it, is sufficient ; but sometimes it cannot be procured for a long while together : besides which misfortune, it is very often most shamefully and carelessly wasted : not to mention, that commissaries in general seldom furnish out the due quantity of any thing, which they have agreed and engaged for, and are most amply paid for.

At home, our horses are crammed and ruined with over-much hay, and the allowance of corn is scanty. Cut straw

and a little hay too, sometimes, mixed with it, is excellent food : to a quartern of corn, put near two quarterns of cut straw, and about half an one of hay, and let them all be well mingled together, and when they are very dry, sprinkle a little water upon them in the manger.

All sorts of grain are foggy feeding; and though it plumps up the body, it gives not a wholesome and sound fat : Bran too is not solid food, and is only now and then to be allowed, when horses are heated, to refresh, and open them, if the case requires it.

Whenever hay is put and left in the racks, as for instance at night, see that it be well-cleaned and freed from dust, and not given in too large quantities.

In

In this respect, 'tis, like water, much more beneficial, when supplied often, and in small portions at a time. 'Tis a common, but a great error, and very detrimental to horses, to gallop them immediately after drinking ; they ought to be moved only gently. I have remarked, that in the middle of the day, good and clean straw is excellent provender, and contributes to the health of horses. Upon the whole, a lean horse, and a fat horse, are both disagreeable sights ; and a rough coat likewise is in no wise a right symptom ; but the means of making it fine, should not be by dint of heat and covering, but by dressing and due care.

It is a duty very requisite, and incumbent upon officers, to be constant, exact
and

and frequent in going up and down the lines in camp ; as it is likewise adviseable for every one to visit often their own stables, in order to inspect and superintend the management of the horses. No scissar-trimming should be permitted ; but whatever rough hairs appear, they should be taken off by dressing. As great inconveniencies often happen from horses getting loose, I have affixed a draught and description of the most effectual halter I know of, and indeed the only one I have found upon trial, that is capable of preventing it.

A common complaint amongst troop-horses is broken-wind, which is chiefly occasioned by giving them too much hay ; and often by hurrying them too violently after drinking, and after their
coming

coming at first from grafs. There is no sovereign remedy; I believe, for broken-wind; but the greatest palliative I know of, is this following receipt: take a crucible, and in it put a bed of rasped lead and then a bed of sulphur, alternately, 'till the crucible is full; and then setting fire to the whole, let it continue burning, till the whole is consumed into a dross: after which, pound the dross into powder, which being sifted fine, must be given to the horse fasting every morning, from two to three ounces in his corn being wetted: or if the horse has withal an husky cough, mix it up with treacle, &c. into balls. This medicine causes no impediment or inconvenience, and may be given for ever so long a time together. Sometimes a clumsy fellow by negligence and aukwardness is the
cause

cause of his horse's falling and giving him broken knees ; which has a very unsightly appearance : if any thing will remedy this disaster, and make the hair come again, and probably of a right colour, it is burnt cork finely sifted, and mixed with oil, so as to make an ointment of it : it must be laid on very often, and the part must be kept free from dirt.

Every troop ought to have a cutting-box belonging to it, and one man constantly employed all day at it in chopping hay, straw, &c. Forage of all kinds should be cut and mixed together ; and should be always given to the horses, (when in camp,) in nose-bags, by which means nothing is blown away, or lost. 'Tis not to be imagined, what order horses are
pre-

preserved in by adhering to this method. The Germans wisely carry, upon all occasions whatever, every man a double feed of chopped straw and corn mingled together, which is never touched, but by express order of the commanding officer, and then too in such quantities, and at what time, he thinks fit to direct. I cannot help declaring, that not only in this, but in numberless other particulars, we should shew our prudence by imitating their example : as it frequently happens upon long marches, and even sometimes when the troops stand still, that forage cannot be procured for some days together ; then this German practice, which I have just mentioned, in a short time gives strong and apparent proofs of its utility, by the preservation of their horses in good plight, whilst

whilst ours are perishing through want. None but those, who have been eye-witnesses to the fact, can tell, what harm a deficiency of forage, only for two days, does horses, especially in marches by night, and in bad weather; some are often disabled by it for the whole campaign, and some for ever after. This contrivance of the Germans, if followed, would be the means of saving the lives of many horses, and help, in cases of exigency to keep up the vigour of all; but I know not by what fatality it so happens, we persevere in neglecting to adopt it. These and many other precautions and carefulnesses, in matters, seemingly perhaps little and trifling, ought to be deemed, (as they really are,) equally as necessary for preserving a regiment in the condition it ought to be

BREAKING HORSES, &c. III

be for its own honour and credit, as a just distribution of rewards and punishments. These and such-like attentions should no more be dispensed with, than that an officer of every troop should constantly visit every horse of that troop each day in their quarters, cantonments, or lines; and especially too, without delay, after fatiguing marches, and foul weather: but if this care be intrusted to a quarter-master, who is already overloaded, not only with his own, but often with the whole business of the officers, beyond a possibility of executing half of it; and if he likewise, (being indeed in some measure compelled to it) shuffle off his burden, all he can, upon the serjeants and corporals: what else can be expected, but that the same spirit of idleness and disregard will diffuse

fuse itself throughout the whole corps ? Hence no duty is compleatly and essentially performed ; none in the stable with respect to the horses, accoutrements, &c. no regularity in cooking, no care to see the men well dried after wet service ; in short, no serious attention to numberless other necessary articles ; whereby the regiment most infamously falls to ruin, and is very soon rendered unfit for service.

F I N I S.



y
o
e
t,
er
nt
ry